

EDITORIAL

The 2006 Database Issue of *Nucleic Acids Research* is the thirteenth in a series dedicated to databases in the field of molecular biology. These databases are an essential resource for experimental and computational biologists alike and this compilation provides descriptions and updates of the most important of these databases and serves to introduce newly compiled databases that provide specialist information in the biological area. The current issue is the largest yet and presents 94 new databases and updates of 68 existing databases.

Michael Galperin continues to produce and enlarge the Molecular Biology Database Collection, a compendium of databases that includes all those databases described in *Nucleic Acids Research*, as well as selected other databases relevant to biologists. NAR Online contains links to all of the databases in the compilation as well as brief summaries of their content. Links are provided from that website directly to the homepage of each of the databases featured. Individuals who wish to have their database listed in the Molecular Biology Database Collection or update a previous submission to the collection should contact Dr Michael Galperin directly (galperin@ncbi.nlm.nih.gov).

This Database Issue, the first of the 2006 volume, is not included in the print subscription to NAR. Instead, the Database Issue is freely available online to all under NAR's open access model, which has been successful in 2005 (for more information about the NAR open access model see http://www.oxfordjournals.org/nar/announce_openaccess.html). Print copies are available for separate purchase by institutions and individuals. The Web Server Issue will also be published under this model.

All authors wishing to submit articles for the 2007 Database Issue must contact Dr A. Bateman (nardatabase@mrc-lmb.cam.ac.uk) with a pre-submission enquiry, no later than July 1, 2006, to check whether a submission will be suitable for the issue. The pre-submission enquiry must present a working web accessible database for review by the Editor. All new articles will need to be received by August 15, 2006 at the latest, and should be prepared according to the instructions on the *Nucleic Acids Research* website (<http://nar.oxfordjournals.org/>). Authors who are submitting articles providing update information on databases that have previously been featured in *Nucleic Acids Research* should note that the deadline for submission of those articles is September 15, 2006.

The Database Issue would not be possible without timely reports from hundreds of reviewers. I would also like to thank Gill Smith and Abbi Cliff for excellent editorial assistance. Finally I would like to thank Claire Saxby, and the rest of the team at Oxford University Press for producing this important issue.

Alex Bateman

